

Minutes of the Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering
Public Hearing #3
Allegany College of Maryland, College Center Theater
12401 Willowbrook Road
Cumberland, MD 21502
February 6, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Co-Chair Walter Olson opened the public hearing at 6:40 p.m. He expressed thanks to Allegany College of Maryland for hosting the event and invited the commissioners present to introduce themselves.

Commissioners Present:

Alexander Williams, Jr. – Co-Chair

Walter Olson – Co-Chair

Ashley Oleson, Co-Chair

Maury S. Epner, Esq.

Deborah Lundahl

Christopher Howard

Luis T. Gutierrez, Jr.

Matthew Douglas, Esq.

Kathleen Jo Parsons Tabor, Esq.

Co-Chair Olson gave a brief overview of the background of redistricting in the sixth district, the duties of the Commission as outlined in the Governor's Executive Order, and a timeline of upcoming events.

Co-chair Olson explained that individuals who indicated they wished to speak on the sign-in sheets would be invited up to the microphone in the order that they signed in. Participation was encouraged and attendees that did not indicate they wished to speak upon arrival were informed that they would still be given the opportunity to speak at the end. Attendees who wished to speak were asked to consider giving three minutes to share their thoughts.

Of the 15 attendees that spoke, common themes are listed below:

- Garrett and Allegany Counties do not have the same issues as Montgomery County, public health, safety and infrastructure needs.
- Need a balance of voters.
- Housing prices higher in Montgomery County than in Allegany and Garrett Counties.
- Better harmony without Montgomery County.
- Need for a homogenous district.
- Suggest going back to the old map that follows the Mason Dixon Line.
- The current map was created for political reasons.
- Lack of a local representative's and presence and office in the rural area.
- Government must be transparent, must have trust.
- Keep similar communities with similar values and interests in the same district.

- Political disenfranchisement, local candidates can't financially compete with Montgomery County representatives in elections.
- Suggest not using zip codes and do not break up a single county to make the boundary.
- Citizens believe the voices have not been heard by the current Congressman.
- Need to have both rural and urban areas in the district.

Co-Chair Olson thanked the attendees that spoke for their participation and thanked the audience for attending.

The public hearing adjourned at 7:45 p.m.